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October 27, 1952

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conduct of the national defense which, if
disclosed, would result in the identification of
sources or methods of obtaining intelligence,
or otherwise be injurious to the national
defense.~~

While no biomedical experimentation is planned for this autumn in connection with atomic detonations, it is important that at the earliest opportunity we conduct certain experiments especially in the area of the biological effect of neutrons. It now appears that such an opportunity will be forthcoming in a series of detonations at the Nevada Test Site in the Spring of 1953.

The Biomedical Test Planning and Screening Committee, organized for the purpose of evaluating biomedical experiments proposed for inclusion in weapons tests, is now completing the review of a number of experiments particularly suitable to this test.

We have requested that Commander Eugene P. Cronkite, MC, USN, be assigned to direct the execution of this experimental program. Commander Cronkite feels that in order to successfully execute these intricate experiments it would be most desirable to have Major Robert J. Veenstra, VC, USA, continue his duty at the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory for a period of approximately one year from now in order to supervise the animal colonies and participate in the work at the Nevada Test Site next spring. We therefore respectfully request the continuance of Major Veenstra's assignment at NSNFDL.

In the event this request is approved, it is suggested that Major Veenstra contact Commander Bronkite for further details.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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SIGNED and DISPATCHED

John C. Dugher, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

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cc: Cdr. Cronkite
Major Veenstra

Major Veenstra		[REDACTED]	
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